the flow of NRI funds to suit the country's requirements and needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) (i) The total foreign exchange reserves, comprising foreign currency assets, Gold and SDR Holding, stood at Rs. 5967 crores at the end of January, 1989.

(ii) Balances outstandig under NRE and FCNR Accounts (as on 27.1.89) are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

NRE accounts	FCNR Accounts
5606	7570

(iii) The Government Proposes to continue with the present schemes.

(b) The subscription for the NRI Bonds closed on 15th February, 1989. Up to 17th February, 1989, a sum of US $76.823 million, equivalent to Rs. 115.44 crores, has been credited to the Reserve Bank of India account with Federal Reserve Bank, New York.

The bonds were floated by the State Bank of India and the money so collected shall be invested as per the policy guidelines issued to the nationalised banks from time to time.

(c) The decision to invest in a particular sector is taken by the Non-Resident Indians themselves within the overall framework of Government policy for NRI investments and the Industrial Policy of the Government of India.

Allocation of export quota of castor oil by STC

267. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has represented to the Ministry of Commerce for allocation of export quota of castor oil by State Trading Corporation (STC) of India; if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Commerce Ministry thereon;

(b) whether Government are aware that 60% of the total production of castor and 80% of the crushing capacity is in Gujarat; if so what is the reason for ignoring the claims of Gujarat State Export Corporation;

(c) what is the total export of castor and castor oil the countries to which it is exported and the quota allotted by the State Trading Corporation of India to private companies and State Public undertakings this year; and

(d) whether State Public Undertakings are given preference in the allotment of quota and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI: (a) to (d) Export of castor oil to Rupee Payment Area (RPA) countries is canalised through STC and is on Open General Licence (OGI) for exports to General Currency Area (GCA) countries. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has represented to the Ministry of commerce for allocation of export quota of castor oil by State Trading Corporation of India for export to RPA countries. In his request he has pointed out that over 60% of the total production of castor oil is from Gujarat State. It has been decided that, to begin with, STC may offer, after finalisation of prices with buyers, a quota of 1,000 to 2,000 MTs of castor oil to Gujarat State Export Corporation for export to RPA countries. In the normal course special quotas for export to RPA countries are not given.

2. Any enquiry, as and when received, is circulated by STC to all its associate suppliers including Public Sector undertakings for sending offers as per buyers requirements. Taking into account the lowest prices quoted by suppliers, corresponding to the shipment period and the quantity required by the buyer, the offers are sent to the foreign buyer. The reason for lower share of Gujarat State Export Corporation in the business has been their quoting higher prices consistently as compared to other parties. A total quantity of 20,796 MTs has been exported from India during the period from 1st April, 1988 till 21st February, 1989. Main exports are to USSR, GDR, Japan, and Nepal. Out of the above total quantity exported so far, Gujarat State Export Corporation offered 500 MTs at competitive prices and shipped 496 MTs. As all the registered associate suppliers of STC, including state public undertakings are given equal opportunity to participate in the tender, other things being equal, the quantities are allocated on the basis of prices quoted by the individual suppliers.

Expansion of trade between India and China

268. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks have recently been held with China for expansion of trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both sides recognised the need for closer economic cooperation consistant with the existing complementary ties in the two economies. The Indian side indicated out capabilities in areas such as Hotel Industry, Automobiles, Engineering goods etc. The Chinese side taking note of our capabilities promised to explore the possibilities particularly of using Indian expertise in Hotel Industry. India indicated its need for more silk from China.

(c) The talks were held in December, 1988 at Beijing and it is too early to assess the outcome.

दहेज के कारण हुई मौतें

269. **डा. अबरार अहमद खान:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों में देश में प्रति वर्ष कितनी महिलाओं की दहेज के कारण हत्या की गयी और इन मामलों में अब तक कितने अपराधियों को पकड़ा गया तथा कितनों को सजा दी गयी;

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों में राजस्थान में कितनी दहेज संबंधी हत्याएं हुई तथा कितने लोग पकड़े गए और कितनों को सजा दी गई और क्या सरकार कानून को और अधिक कठोर बनाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ग) क्या इस बुराई से लड़ने के लिए महिलाओं को शिक्षित करने के वास्ते सरकार द्वारा कोई अभियान चलाया जा रहा है?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम): (क) वर्ष 1986, 1987, और 1988 के दौरान दहेज मामलों के कारण जिन महिलाओं की मृत्यु हुई उनकी संख्या का राज्यवार और संघ शासित क्षेत्र-वार विवरण संलग्न है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 149, अनुपत्र सं. 10]

अपराधों को दर्ज करने, जांच करने और पता लगाने की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों/संघ शासित क्षेत्र प्रशासनों की है। पकड़े गए अपराधियों की संख्या और अपराध/मामलों में दोष-सिद्ध व्यक्तियों की संख्या के बारे में सूचना केन्द्रीय एजेन्सियों द्वारा एकत्रित और संकलित नहीं की जाती है।